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Letter To The Editor

January 21, 1976

Editor
Times-Virginian

Being concerned about Virginia's future fate, I am writing in the hope that my experience and questions may be of help to the citizens of Virginia in any future decisions that they must make on the lottery or pari-mutual betting in our state.

My husband and I came to Virginia via five gambling states and one non-gambling state. We knew something of its conservative policies and felt that it was a well managed state. As business and professional men here, and farmers, too, you have not had to be intimidated and pay tribute to the underworld to protect your places of business, equipment, and even your families. We have had this experience, and even the police were afraid to help.

Virginians are now threatened in the name of progress, with a proposal to obtain revenue by a system which ties gambling, drugs, forgery, prostitution, embezzlement, extortion and burglary together. And states which have tried it are paying dearly in loss of freedom to live openly. Anticipated revenues from gambling sources are disappointing and not worth the risk for the small percentage of the budget that they produce. Crime commissions report that $4.00 is illegally wagered to every $1.00 legally bet. The evidence not only take money from the state, but pay no taxes themselves.

Ninety percent of New York's cigarette trade is controlled by the underworld, who get them from manufacturers as tribute money for protection. They pay no tax, and harass those in the legitimate business. Delaware has given up the lottery, and New York has suspended it for corruption. A former governor of New Jersey cashed secret checks at the race tracks, and the revealer was busted to the bottom of the police ranks. Does this not encourage law enforcers to be fearful of exposing crime and protecting victims? And please note the political characters which Maryland has produced, as well as Illinois and Kentucky.

For those who do further research, there is an expose of crime domination of race tracks by Congressman Sam Steiger in the Congressional Record; and the Claude Pepper report, which is strangely quiet in 1976, in all the large libraries of the state. Any citizen has access to these.

Is there really no danger in governments raising false hopes of instant wealth and happiness? Are misleading advertising, exaggeration and appeals to impulse buying deplorable in private life but defensible when employed in the service of the state? Is the way to fight crime for states to support the business of entertaining the populace by building up a large bureaucracy and added heavy expenses? Is it really good to exploit the weak and gullible?

Perhaps we all could ask ourselves, "Would I consider earning my living in the gambling business?" If not, why burden the tax payer with it? Who are the real victims in this "victimless" crime? Surely the majority of Virginians would prefer a more responsible way of sharing the wealth with those less fortunate than they. Surely our laws should protect the family and not weaken it. Please write your legislators.

Polly H. Brown
Suffolk, Va.

APPOMATTOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MENU

Mon., Feb. 2 - Vegetable Beef soup w/crackers, Bologna & cheese sandwiches, apple cobbler, milk.

Tues., Feb. 3 - Chili con carne w/beans, rolls w/butter, cole slaw, gingerbread, apple sauce, milk.

Wed., Feb. 4 - Hot dogs on buns, w/chili, green peas, boiled potatoes, w/butter, fruit cocktail, cookies, milk.

Thurs., Feb. 5 - Sliced turkey w/gravy, rolls w/butter, green beans, whipped potatoes, chilled cranberry sauce, milk.

Fri., Feb. 6 - Corn dogs, cole slaw, pinto beans, strawberry shortcake, milk.

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The Pastor Speaks

"We Shall Be Like Him"

"Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." I John 3:2.

It has been said that over 85 million people in the United States worship in the church or synagogue of their choice each week, in addition to those who watch religious broadcasting on television or hear it on radio. Even though this figure sounds high, it is low considering the population in the U.S. which is now approximately 215 million people. Roughly 39 per cent of the people in the U.S. worship God each week. Somehow and for some reason(s) Christians in America have forgotten the statement of fact by John when he said, "Beloved now are we the children of God". We are children who have forgotten who our Father is and what our responsibilities are to him. Church attendance is just one way we can show our faithfulness and loyalty to our Heavenly Father. God instituted the church, because it is the nature of man not to attend church! I love the church and so do many people I know, but let one of us miss four Sundays in a row and then we can see how easy it is to stay at home. God has blessed us so abundantly, not only in the gift of his beloved Son for our salvation, but in the necessities and luxuries of life. What greater gift could we return to our Father in this Bicentennial year to show our appreciation to him, than that of our physical and spiritual presence in the house of the Lord every week worshiping Him!

Yes, some day we shall be like him completely. However, we need to begin now, today, "conforming to his image" as the Apostle Paul wrote about in Romans 8:29. We have already been born again as children of God. As that day and time approaches "when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is," let each of us seek to lead others to this blessed promise that is ours in Christ Jesus.

Clarence H. Davis, Pastor
New Hope Baptist Church,
Appomattox, Va.

OAKVILLE HD CLUB TO MEET FEB. 5

The Oakville Extension Homemakers Club will meet on February 5, 1976 at Oakville School at 10:30 a.m. There will be a covered dish luncheon. All members are asked to attend.

The Sunday School Lesson

COMMENTS BY HERBERT C. BRADSHAW

Lesson For February 1, 1976

Jesus Involved in Conflict
Scripture: Matt. 11-12
Blessed is he who takes no offense at me. Matt. 11:6

From the nature of Jesus' teaching, it was inevitable that opposition would arise. That "he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes" reveals a difference between His emphases and those of the Jewish religious establishment. The Pharisees and scribes (largely Pharisees) were primarily concerned with a meticulous observance of the minute details of the rabbinical interpretations of the law and these had become part of the law for them. Their insistence on this observance constituted a religious burden not unlike the burdens of taxation and impressement the Roman government imposed.

As Jesus interpreted the law, it was for man's benefit, not his burden. The justification of law is that it is for the protection and well-being of the people. But it is very easy for lawmakers to go beyond that point and enact laws which oppress the people, as has often been the case in history. Jesus' ministry demonstrated that He was more concerned with people and their needs than He was with a strict observance of each of the minute details of the law and tradition.

It is not surprising, then, that the multitudes were attracted to Jesus, by both His deeds of mercy and His teachings which were directed to the fundamentals of human conduct and the individual's relationships to God and man. The religious leaders saw in Jesus a threat to their own influence, and they determine to thwart and eliminate it, even if it meant destroying Jesus Himself.

Consistent with his practice of grouping topically aspects of Jesus' ministry, Matthew relates several episodes of conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees (at this stage His principal critics) as the latter sought to undermine His influence with the people.

The first two examples concern Sabbath observance, an emphasis of particular concern to them. In the first they complained to Jesus that His disciples violated the Sabbath by breaking off heads of grain, rubbing out the kernels, and eating them. (They were hungry.) Reaping (breaking the grain heads) and threshing - (getting out the grains) were two of the 39 activities specifically forbidden for the Sabbath. (The law allowed passers-by to break off as much as a handful of grain to eat.) In reply Jesus cited history, law and prophet: David and his companions had once eaten the bread of the Presence, which only the priests might eat; the priests worked in the Temple of the Sabbath, slaughtering animals for sacrifice, keeping the sacrifical fires, and doing other chores; and prophet Hosea (6:6) declared that God desired mercy and not sacrifice.

When He was about to restore to wholeness a man's withered right hand, Jesus took the initiative and made the issue one of doing good on the Sabbath. According to Mark, He declared that the Sabbath was made for man, that is, for man's benefit (which a day of rest and worship is), not man for the Sabbath.

In the third example, the Pharisees tried to discredit Him by accusing Him of exorcising demons through the power of Beelzebul, the ruler of demons. (Beelzebul was an ancient Canaanite deity, "lord of the temple," called in derision in the Old Testament Beelzebub, "lord of flies." Milton in Paradise Lost portrays Beelzebub as Satan's chief lieutenant.) Jesus showed that such an explanation is irrational, for it would indicate a destructive division of interest on Satan's part. Satan is too astute to give anyone power to get rid of his agents and workers. Some disciples of the Pharisees claimed to be exorcists; were they too in league with Beelzebul? Jesus cast out demons because He had power to do so, a power given by God and confirmed by His deeds. Some scribes and Pharisees sought a sign, Jesus told them that signs had already been given. And when His mother and brothers came, apparently to take Him away from the crowd and His teaching, He affirmed His commitment to His mission.

Opposition to Jesus persists. Believers today face similar criticism and opposition and become involved in a similar conflicts. In coping with opposition, they have the example of how Jesus dealt with it.

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APPOMATTOX SENIOR 4-H

On Monday, Jan. 19, the Appomattox Senior 4-H Club held their monthly meeting with Joe Ford presiding. The actions at old business came upon the club then the new. Discussion was about Interstate Exchange, 4-H Camp, Weekend Campout, 4-H Public Speaking and 4-H Demonstration. Then the club had a Bicentennial program with each member acting out a past hero or event. Then Steve Cawthorn presented the club with a demonstration on how to build a compsite pile. The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served.

Fred Mitchell, Reporter

Wedding Invitations, Informals on sale at **The Times-Virginian**, Newspaper Office - Phone 352-8215 - Appomattox, Va. 1-15-tf

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8.00-16.5	6PR TL	$34.00	$3.39

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7.00-15	6PR TT	$42.85	$3.19
7.50-16	6PR TT	$48.50	$3.49
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8.00-16.5	6PR TL	$45.00	$3.39

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FUND DRIVE CHAIRMAN NAMED

Mrs. Sadie Brightwell has consented to head up the 1976 Boy Scout fund drive in Pamplin. Mrs. Brightwell is shown above with Tom Morgan, Central District Executive, Boy Scouts of America. She is making plans to conduct the campaign during March.

Cub Pack and Scout Troop 101 are sponsored by the Pamplin Ruritan Club.

"The active scouting program in the pack and troop is made possible through the adult leaders who volunteer their time to work with the boys. The Institutional Representative for both the troop and pack is Horace Coleman. Vic Meadows is serving as scoutmaster of Troop 101 and J. M. Cobb is cubmaster for Pack 101.

Westvaco Asks Americans To Plant Trees

Virginia landowners are being asked to make a long-lasting contribution to America during the bicentennial year by planting more trees, Andrew Dreszer, Westvaco cooperative forest management supervisor, stated that forests played a vital role in development of America and that current demands for wood products are expected to double by the year 2000.

A "bicentennial reforestation program" offering pine seedlings and wildlife food plants for forest planting will be available to Virginians this year under a continuing reforestation program by Westvaco and public conservation agencies. Last year Westvaco provided almost 5,000,000 free seedlings on a matching basis to Virginia landowners. Dreszer anticipates the 1976 reforestation program to be much larger. Loblolly, Virginia, Shortleaf, White and Red pines will be available to landowners in 65 counties across the state. Upon request, Westvaco will also furnish free a package of 100 wildlife food plants to recipients of matched seedlings. The package will contain some 80 bi-color lespedeza plants and 20 autumn olive seedlings.

Landowners are asked to contact their local county forester of the nearest Westvaco office for more information. Orders are being taken now, Dreszer announced.

Cooperating with Westvaco in the seeding program are the Virginia Division of Forestry, VPI University Extension Service, U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and its local ACP committees.

Over the past 200 years forests have played a vital role in the development of our nation, Dreszer said. "They helped the colonists survive in America. Trees provided them with food, shelter, fuel, and products for trade. After the 1890's, with the coming of the railroad, forests aided the speedy settlement of the country. They supplied nearly 780 million wooden ties for 250,000 miles of track laid down during the 1800's." American forests also furnished wood for hundreds of thousands of homes and for thousands of bridges, stores, factories, schools, and churches. They provided fuel for early locomotives and steamboats. Sawmills provided jobs, attracted railroads to new regions and started new towns.

"Today our forests are still three quarters as large as when Columbus landed in 1492 even though each American is using the wood equivalent to a 100 foot tree each year," Dreszer said.

"What's more, the demand for wood products is expected to double by the year 2000, as wood, wood fiber, and wood chemicals are called upon more and more to replace non-renewable resources.

In light of our nation's growing needs, Dreszer said, "we're asking Virginia landowners to make a vital and long-lasting contribution by planting more trees in the bicentennial year."

Hollywood

Mrs. George Jennings spent a few days last week with Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Jennings and family of Lynchburg.

We are very sorry to know Mrs. L. L. Webb and Miss Joyce Webb are sick also Mr. Allen Bryant, of Vera. We pray that each of them may soon be well.

Visiting Mrs. Mary Bagby last week were Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Webb, Mrs. Scott Sheets, Mrs. Raymond Franklin, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Wingfield, Mr. John Goin, Mrs. Jack King and Mrs. Iva Covington.

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Wingfield were supper guests last week of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wingfield and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Mangus, of Lynchburg, were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Woodall and family Saturday night. They called in the home of Mrs. Mary Bagby in the afternoon.

Mrs. W. H. Wingfield and Mrs. Thomas Woodall called in the home of Mrs. M. L. Covington last week. Mrs. W. T. Covington visited in this home Wednesday night.

Little Andy Balthaser was sick last week, but we are happy he is able to be out again.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Watson visited Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Austin and family Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Wayne Smith, of Rustburg, Mrs. Lela Almond, Mrs. Bill Watson, Miss Julia Wingfield and Mr. W. H. Wingfield visited Mrs. Charlie Bagby Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Delorious Deaner, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wingfield, Miss Julia Wingfield and Mrs. Bill Watson, William and April visited Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Woodall and Lisa Friday night.

Miss Dawn Deaner spent Friday night with Mr. and Mrs. Bill Watson and family.

Mrs. Joe Baldwin and Mrs. Charles Hanenkrat, of Richmond, spent last Monday with their sister, Mrs. M. L. Covington.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Almond had all their children and their families with them Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Torrence and Mrs. James Conner are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Torrence, of Tampa, Fla.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coleman visited Mrs. W. T. Covington Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hancock, of Richmond, spent Sunday with Mrs. Hancock's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Torrence.

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Charmin Tissue White & Asst. Colors 4 Roll Pkg. - 69¢
Florida Fresh Oranges 125 Count Doz. 59¢
Freezer Queen - 2 Lb. Pkgs. Buffet Suppers 99¢ Limit 2
Prem Luncheon Meat 12 Oz. Can 99¢
Hershey's "Hot"-10 pack box Cocoa Mix 79¢
Swift's - 5 Oz. Can Vienna Sausage 3 for $1.00
LaRuta-12 Oz. Can Corned Beef 99¢
Bunker Hill -23 Oz. Can Beef Stew 69¢
Kounty Kist Whole Kernel-17 Oz. Can Yellow Corn 3 for 89¢
Kounty Kist - 16 Oz. Can Sweet Peas 3 for 89¢
Comstock- 16 Oz. Can Sliced Beets 4 for $1.00
Tomato Ketchup Heinz- 32 Oz. Bottle 79¢
Jelly Sale Old Virginia-16 Oz. Jar Apple-Grape, Apple -Blackberry Apple-Raspberry, Apple 2 for $1
Red Delicious Apples 4 Lb. Bag 89¢
Peppers 2 for 35¢
Radishes 2 Pkgs. 35¢
Cucumbers 2 for 35¢
Plain & Iodized-26 Oz. Box Richfood Salt 2 for 29¢
Saltine Crackers Keebler Zesta-1 Lb. Box 59¢
Salad Dressing Seven Seas Liquid-8 Oz. Bottle French -1000 Island 2 For $1
Sealtest Ice Milk Light & Lively All Flavors ½ Gal. $1.09